MOKUMOKUREN

2

THE SUMMER HIKARU DIED

CHAPTER 7

YOU MUST KNOW IT TOO.

THAT YA CAN'T KEEP BEIN' WITH YOUR FRIEND LIKE THIS.

ONE WEEK EARLIER —

THE SUMMER

HIKARU DIED

MOKUMOKUREN

2

CHAPTER 7

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13:01

13:01

Rie Kurebayashi >

Feel like talking now?

...WHO'S...

...THIS?

...?

YA GOT...

...SOME SORTA MESSAGE...

.....

.....

AH, YEAH...

FROM MY MOM... AIN'T NOTHIN' SPECIAL.

SHT

HIKA-RUUU!

GO AN' BUY SOME BEER FROM YAMAHISA RIGHT QUICK.

SURE THING.

HOO-EE! IT'S HOT AS HELL !!

THE HECK...!?

BZZH BZZH BZZH

YOSHIKI'S ...

...BIKE'S GONE...

BZZHBZZHBZZHBZZHBZZHBZZH

GO AWAY!

SLAP

FWIP

I DON'T NEED...

...A

LIKE YOU...

TRUTH IS, I DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE.

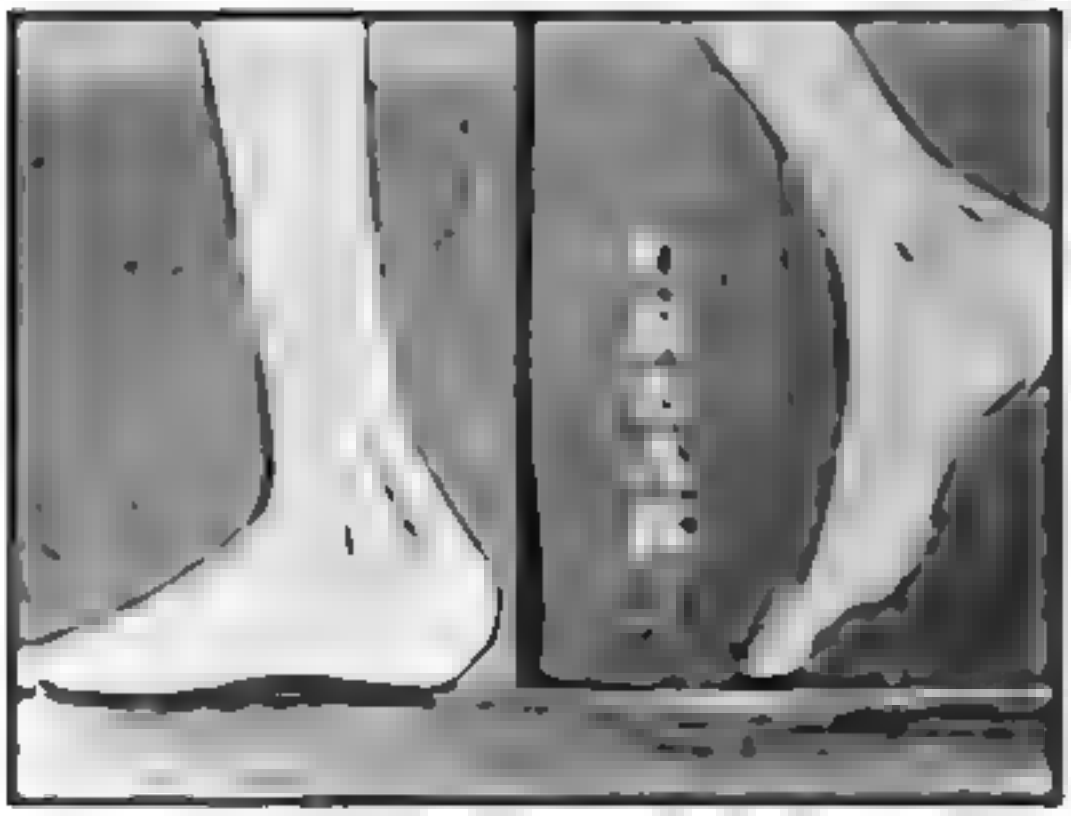
WHA—?

HUH...?

WH...

WHY?

الله!


CLANG

S

CREAK
CREAK

I LOOK JUST LIKE 'IM, THOUGH ...

...ON THE OUTSIDE...

SCRUFF

...EUGH, GROSS...

WHAT-EVER.

AND I CAN'T STOP MY FEELINGS!!!

I KNOW IT AIN'T RIGHT. BUT I STILL LIKE YOU!

FLINCH

IT FEELS GOOD?
IT FEELS GOOD?
IT FEELS GOOD?
IT FEELS GOOD?
IT FEELS GOOD?
IT FEELS GOOD?

AGH!

SO GROSS
SO GROSS
SO GROSS
SO GROSS
SO
SO
GOOD?

MMPH...

FFFFRGH!

??????
??????????

BA-DUM

AH.

WHAT IS THIS?

SOMETHING...

...IS FLOWING...

...INSIDE...

...ME.

IS THAT... SOMEONE'S... HEAD...?

AH!

HI

HIKA-
RJ

EEUGH!

KOFF!

HGK!

HUFF...

HUFF...

I'M SORRY.

.....

NO

I CAN'T DO IT

ANYONE BUT HIM...

SHUT
ばたん…

DON'T HATE ME

FSH

……

FSH

DING-DONG DANG-DONG

I'M GONNA HEAD HOME NOW

BE RIGHT BACK GOTTA HEAD TO THE TOILET BEFORE CLUB STARTS.

MUST HEAD UP TO THE LOO-RIGHT NOW!

THAT THING REPLACED HIKARU.

I IGNORED EVERYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED...

I'M THE WORST. I JUST PRETENDED LIKE THERE WAS NOTHIN' WEIRD ABOUT HIM...

...I CAN'T TREAT IT LIKE IT'S THE REAL HIKARU EITHER.

BUT JUST AS THAT THING CAN'T TOTALLY REPLACE HIKARU...

BEFORE?

...YER SAYIN' THAT LIKE IT WAS YOU BACK THEN.

...BUT YOU'RE NOT HIKARU !!!! ...!!!!

THAT'S WHY I SAID ALL THAT...

THIS BRUISE LOOKS BAD... BUT EVEN AFTER ALL THAT... I STILL WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR SOME REASON...

HEY!

JOLT!

SOMETHIN' HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU 'N' HIKARU!?

HA HA...

IT'S TOTALLY NUMB...

DID Y'ALL GET INTO A FIGHT AFTER SCHOOL YESTERDAY?

SURE IS WEIRD HOW HIKARU'S MISSIN' SCHOOL 'N' ALL.

AND YOU GOT THIS REAL DARK AURA AROUND YA, YOSHIKI...

THAT BOY'S BEEN CRAZY ABOUT YA LATELY. I FEEL BAD FOR HIM.

I DUNNO WHAT HAPPENED...

...BUT YA OUGHTTA MAKE UP WITH HIM.

.. YEAH.

...?

AND... FOR REAL.

...I JUST HAVE THIS FEELING IT'S BETTER IF Y'ALL STAYED TOGETHER...

...HUH?

C'MON, NOW! YOU CAN'T BE TALKIN' TRASH LIKE THAT! YOU'VE BEEN WATCHIN' TOO MANY GANGSTER FLICKS!

KYA HA HA HA!

RIGHT!? LIKE SOME PUNK KID CLINGIN' ON TO HIS MOMMY.

YEAH, IT'S LIKE, HIKARU'S BEEN REAL...

...ATTACHED TO YOU? SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT...

GIRL, I'LL SHOW YOU A WORLD OF PAIN!

I'LL EFF YOU UP SOMETHIN' GOOD! KYA HA!

A KID...

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE

I'M GONNA GO.

FWUP

HUH? ALL RIGHT, THEN. SEE YA TOMORROW...

...

HIKARUUU! YOSHIKI'S HERE!

.....

HIKARU...

FWUMP

SORRY 'BOUT YESTER-DAY.

...

WHY'RE YA TELLIN' ME SORRY...?

I...

I...

AFTER WHAT I DID TO YA...

WHY?

I'M THE ONE WHO WAS AWFUL...

I... SAID SOME AWFUL THINGS TO YOU... SORRY...

JOLT

IT'S ALL RIGHT...

SST

N...

NO, I AIN'T SCARED ...

SAY WHAT !?

YER SCARED O' ME, AIN'T YA?

I'M SORRY...

SEE ...!?

YA FLINCHED ...

OH... THAT...? NAW...

IT'S JUST... AFTER WHAT I SAID, I WANTED TO—

I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED ...

LIAR...

I ALREADY SHOWED Y'ALL THAT.

IT WAS JUST...

...DOWN-RIGHT DISGUST-IN'.

...DO YA HATE ME NOW?

... SORRY.

...

YOSHIKI
...
I...
...
Y'KNOW
...
I WANNA BE NEAR YOU. THAT'S ALL I NEED.

I DON'T CARE WHO YER MEETIN' ANY-MORE!

JUST DON'T DO THAT TO ME!!

I JUS' DON'T WANT YA TO HATE ME!

I'M SORRY FOR BEIN' LIKE THIS...

I KNOW IT'S A LOT AFTER I ALREADY WENT AN' TOOK YER FRIEND'S BODY...

TH...THIS THING... HE'S...

HE'S DANGEROUS.

HE'S DANGEROUS, BUT...

...I KINDA FEEL BAD FOR HIM...

SSK

GRIP

STROKE

YOU'RE EVEN MORE OF A LITTLE KID THAN HIKARU WAS...

DON'T DO IT.

DON'T.

BUT IS IT REALLY JUST 'COS IT'S DANGEROUS?

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T.

AND IF...

...THAT'S TRUE, THEN...

HIKARU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'.

YEAH... YER JUST A LONELY LITTLE KID, AFTER ALL.

...YA SURE?

HAVE I ALWAYS BEEN LONELY, THEN?

SO IS THIS WHAT YA CALL BEIN' "LONELY"?

LONE-LY...

BEATS ME.

I'LL HAVE TO TEACH HIM.

CHAPTER 7 END

I WAS PLANNIN' TO GO TO SCHOOL AND GOT AS FAR AS PUTTIN' ON MY UNIFORM AN' EVERYTHIN'
TEH HEH HEH

KIBOGAYAMA HIGH'S
(YAMA HIGH'S)
SCHOOL BADGE

WOW, FOR REAL? I THOUGHT IT WAS A CAPYBARA.

APPARENTLY IT'S INSPIRED BY THE SUNRISE AS SEEN FROM "MOUNT TENBAN," WHICH IS THE SYMBOL OF KIBOGAYAMA TOWN. IT HAS TO DO WITH WANTING TO NURTURE SUN-LIKE STUDENTS WHO WILL BRING LIGHT TO A NEW ERA.

OH! YA GOT AN EYELASH ON YER FACE!

C'MON NOW, MINCEYYY!

CHAPTER 8

WHAT'RE YA DOIN'?

...

IS IT MINCE-ANIKI?

DANG IT. HE JUST WON'T COME TO ME.

PERK

RUB

すり

MROW...

YEP.

THERE, THERE.

HE REALLY HATES YA, HUH, HIKARU?

...HE GOT ALONG WITH THE OLD HIKARU, HUH?

THAT'S USUALLY WHAT HE DOES.

BUT AT LEAST HE DIDN'T HISS AT ME.

PURR PURR PURR PURR PURR PURR..

EEEEK!

WHOA! HE SCRATCHED ME!

DANG DEVIL CAT!

...NAW.

DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH HIM AT ALL.

OH, S'THAT WHAT HAPPENED?

TUNA·BONITO

MEOW Squeeze Treat

OH, I'VE GOT ONE OF THESE.

I DON'T REALLY CARE HOW. I JUST WANNA TOUCH THAT CAT.

YEAH ?

HEYA, MINCEY! I GOT A SQUEEZE TREAT FOR YA!

HISSS...

YOSHIKI!!! CHECK IT OUT!! HE ATE IT!

MAYBE HE'LL LEMME TOUCH HIM NOW!?

SLURP SLURP SLURP SLURP SLURP

LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK LICK

MEOW

POKE

ZOOM

AH.

THAT'S SOME WAY TO TOUCH HIM...

AWW, MAN!

REALLY WHAT?

NAW, IT'S JUST...

HRMM.

HAAH... I'M REALLY...

.....

THAT'S HOW IT WAS WITH WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE...

AND...

...I WISH THAT CREEPY STUFF WOULD STOP COMIN' OUTTA ME WHEN I GET ALL SHOOK UP.

I JUST FEEL LIKE I'M SO DUMB ON ACCOUNT OF NOT KNOWIN' WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND ME.

.....

...BUT HE'S TRYIN' TO GROW IN HIS OWN WAY.

WELL... HIKARU MAY BE KINDA CHILDISH...

RIE WAS SAYIN' THINGS'LL GET SCREWY, BUT...

WHAT THE HECK'S GONNA HAPPEN FROM HERE ON OUT?

WHAT DO I DO WITH A GUY LIKE HIM?

AH!

LOOKIT MINCE-ANIKI! HE'S POOPIN'! AH-HA-HA-HA!

FLIP...

So that's your idea about it right?

YOU GONNA HAVE SUPPER HERE TONIGHT?

FLIP...

FLIP...

FLIP...

RUSTLE

What you're saying doesn't really make sense Okay?

HMM

THAT RIGHT? WELL THEN, SHOULDN'T YOU BE HEADIN' HOME?

RIGHT AFTER I FINISH READIN' THIS

HMM

MY MAMA'S MAKIN' SALISBURY STEAK TONIGHT...

"WOULD YOU GIVE IT A REST!?

GO YOURSELF AND ASK HER TO DO IT FOR YOU!

I'M NO GOOD AT THAT FIDDLY STUFF— NO WAY I CAN DO IT!

YOU DO IT, MOM...

YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO AUNTIE MIKASA'S TO GET IT LET DOWN!

MOMMM! I WANNA WEAR A YUKATA!

WELL, YOU GOT TALLER, SO THE ONE YOU HAVE DOESN'T FIT ANYMORE, RIGHT!?

...

WHAT'S UP WITH KAORU?

AHH, SHE WANTS TO WEAR A YUKATA TO THIS YEAR'S SUMMER FESTIVAL.

THE SUM-MER FESTI-VAL!

PIPE DOWN!

OH... THAT'S RIGHT !!!

I BET THEY'LL HAVE ALL KINDS OF FOOD AGAIN THIS YEAR!

MMM, SHAVED ICE AND ALL SORTS OF STUFF...

I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

HEH.

LET'S YOU AND ME GO WITH KAORU— ALL THREE OF US.

I'M REALLY LOOKIN' FOR-WARD TO IT.

GABBY

YER FEET AIN'T HURTIN', KAORU?

GABBY

GOOD THING I MADE YOU WEAR SNEAKERS, RIGHT?

I'M FINE.

GABBY

THAT'S NICE, HUH?

HEEEY, YOU KIDS THERE!!

GABBY

OH MY! IS THAT KAORU-CHAN? THAT YUKATA LOOKS DARLIN' ON YA!

TAKOYAKI ¥300

WOW! THANKS A LOT!

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

HAVE SOME TAKOYAKI!

GAB

GAB

TH-TH-THANKS

YOU OUGHTTA SAY THANKS TOO, KAORU.

MR. KAMEYAMA'S REALLY DOIN' US A KINDNESS HERE.

GAB

YEAH, I'M SURE!

KIDS EAT FOR FREE! IT'S HOT, SO BE CAREFUL EATIN' IT!

MASA! CAN YA GO AN' GET SOME MORE OIL!?

TECCHAN'S BRINGIN' SOME OVER NOW...

OH THAT'S TSUJ-NAKA'S

GAB

LITTLE SISTER WHAT'S UP WITH HER? SHE STILL AIN'T GOIN' TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?

CHO BIG CHEESE ¥100

KIYAKI ¥00

AHH, WHAT'S THAT GIRL'S MOTHER DOIN'...?

IT'S AROUND THE SHRINE GROUNDS

RIGHT LET'S GO

HEY!

DON'T YOU WANNA GET SOME SHAVED ICE?

WHERE CAN I GET SOME AGAIN?

I THINK YAKISOBA AN' STUFF...?

BZZT

WHAT ELSE DO THEY HAVE ON THE SHRINE GROUNDS AGAIN?

WHAT ...?

GOT

OH, ALL

GO AHEAD AND BUY

I GOT BOUNCED BACK...

...WHO SET THAT THERE?

WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS...

HERE'S YOUR SHAVED ICE.

SHE WENT TO GET SOME MONEY FROM OUR MOM TO BUY PICKLED CUCUMBERS.

AWE-SOME! THANKS!

YOSHIKI ...

HUH? WHERE'D KAORU GO?

...BUT WHAT KINDA FLAVOR IS "BLUE HAWAII" S'POSED TO BE?

I DON'T THINK IT'S A FLAVOR AT ALL.

APPARENTLY, ALL SHAVED ICE FLAVORS TASTE THE SAME.

I'VE BEEN WONDERIN' 'BOUT THIS FOR A WHILE NOW...

FOR REAL...!?

JUST CHANGIN' THE COLOR'S ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO FEEL LIKE IT TASTES DIFFERENT.

WHA —!?

THEN... HOW ABOUT ME?

CAN IT FEEL THE SAME "OUT"

IT SOME-THIN' LOOKS THE SAME AS ANOTH-ER...

THE REAL ONE NEVER MADE FADED LIKE THAT.

NO WAY.

...OH, I SEE.

WONDER WHY THAT IS.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.

HUH? DO I?

HEY!

YOU'RE ALREADY DONE EATIN'?

AH, DANG, I'M ALL EMBARRASSED NOW!

HMM SO

SO THEN, YOSHIKI...

WHAT'S UP?

IS THAT HOW YOU FIGURED I WASN'T THE REAL HIKARU?

...NO.

I...

I'm SAW HIKARU'S BODY.

CHAPTER 8 END

RED
BLUE

BUT I GET THE FEELIN' THIS THING'S SCORCHIN' HOT
THAT'S DAMN TASTY!

CHAPTER 9

DON'T YOU DARE EVEN THINK ABOUT GOING OUT THERE TO LOOK FOR HIM!

PLEASE! JUST STAY HOME...!!

I'M GONNA CHECK SOMETHING OUT A SEC.

TMP

TMP

LIAR.

THE GROWN-UPS ARE OUT SEARCHING FOR HIM, SO THE KIDS SHOULD STAY HOME.

THAT'S WHAT MOM SAID.

PUSH

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

COME RIGHT BACK, OKAY?

...YOU BETTER.

SHEF

SHEF

SHEF

SHEF

SHEF

SHEF

HEY!

THAT HIM?

HAAH!

HAFF!

HAFF!

HUFF!

SHIT...

HIKARU!

HE'S NOT BREATHING.

HE'S COLD.

A ROCK?

...HIS BODY'S IN SURPRISINGLY GOOD CONDITION.

...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT... 'COS IT'S WINTER.

I WONDER WHY THAT IS.

I HAVE TO HURRY AND TELL SOMEONE...

WAIT A SEC...

WAIT...

YO-SHIKI!

FISH

FISH

FISH

THE FIRE [illegible] THEY'RE DOING THEIR BEST TO SEARCH FOR HIM.

SO IT'LL [illegible] ALL [illegible]...

AH...

YOSHIKI !?

YOU'RE BURNING UP...!

I WAS IN BED FOR A FEW DAYS AFTER THAT.

AND WHEN I WOKE UP...

...

"HIKARU" WAS BACK.

THERE WERE A BUNCHA TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT

THERE WERE LOTS OF OTHER ODD THINGS ABOUT YOU...
BE ENOUGH TO THINK YA WERE SOMEONE

BUT I RECKON IT TOOK A FEW DAYS FOR ME TO REPAIR HIS BODY

I WAS PROBLY ALREADY LIKE THIS WHEN YOU FOUND 'IM.

SO YOU MUSTA COME IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THAT.

...OH, WOW.

THAT'S NUTS...

IT'S WHY I'VE BEEN HAVIN' TROUBLE SLEEPIN'.

AND YOU'VE BEEN HOLDIN' ON TO THIS FOR SIX MONTHS?

AHH...

I MISS HIKARU...

ZSHHH

I SERIOUSLY CAN'T WAIT TO MOVE OUT.

THE COUNTRY SUCKS

WHAT WHY D'YA WANNA GO TO THE CITY SO BADLY?

HA HA HA!

OHH, SO YER FOLKS'RE STILL FIGHTIN'?

BUT FOLKS LIKE YASABUROU'S GRANNY'RE ALWAYS TALKIN' ABOUT IT, LIKE THEY WANT US TO HEAR 'EM...

MY PARENTS... DON'T GET ALONG, AND THEY FIGHT JUST ABOUT EVERY DAY.

WHY DO PEOPLE 'ROUND HERE...

...GOTTA PRY INTO MY FAMILY'S BUSINESS SO MUCH?

YUUSUKE-KUN AIN'T SICK.

HE'S A HOMOSEXUAL.

HOME-O-SEX-YOU-ALL?

THEY WERE SAYIN' HE'S SICK...

SPEAKIN' OF, THERE WAS A BIG FIGHT AT YASABUROU'S PLACE NOT LONG AGO. SOMETHIN' ABOUT THEIR NEXT-IN-LINE, YUUSUKE-KUN.

I DUNNO...

...THIS VILLAGE IS TOO SMALL AND CRAMPED.

SPLASH

I CAN BARELY BREATHE WITH HOW CRAMPED IT IS HERE...

ALL RIGHT...

...THEN YOU CAN SLEEP OVER AT MY PLACE TONIGHT.

EVEN IF THE COUNTRY SUCKS, YOU ALWAYS HAVE FUN AT MY PLACE.

WHENEVER YA FEEL LIKE YOU WANNA GO TO THE CITY, YOU SHOULD COME TO MY PLACE!

.....

AH!

CHECK IT OUT, YOSHIKI!

CRABBY
CRAB!!
CRAB!!
CRAB!!

WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AN' DIE...!?

NNNNNGH...

Y-YOSHIKI...

UUUU

.....

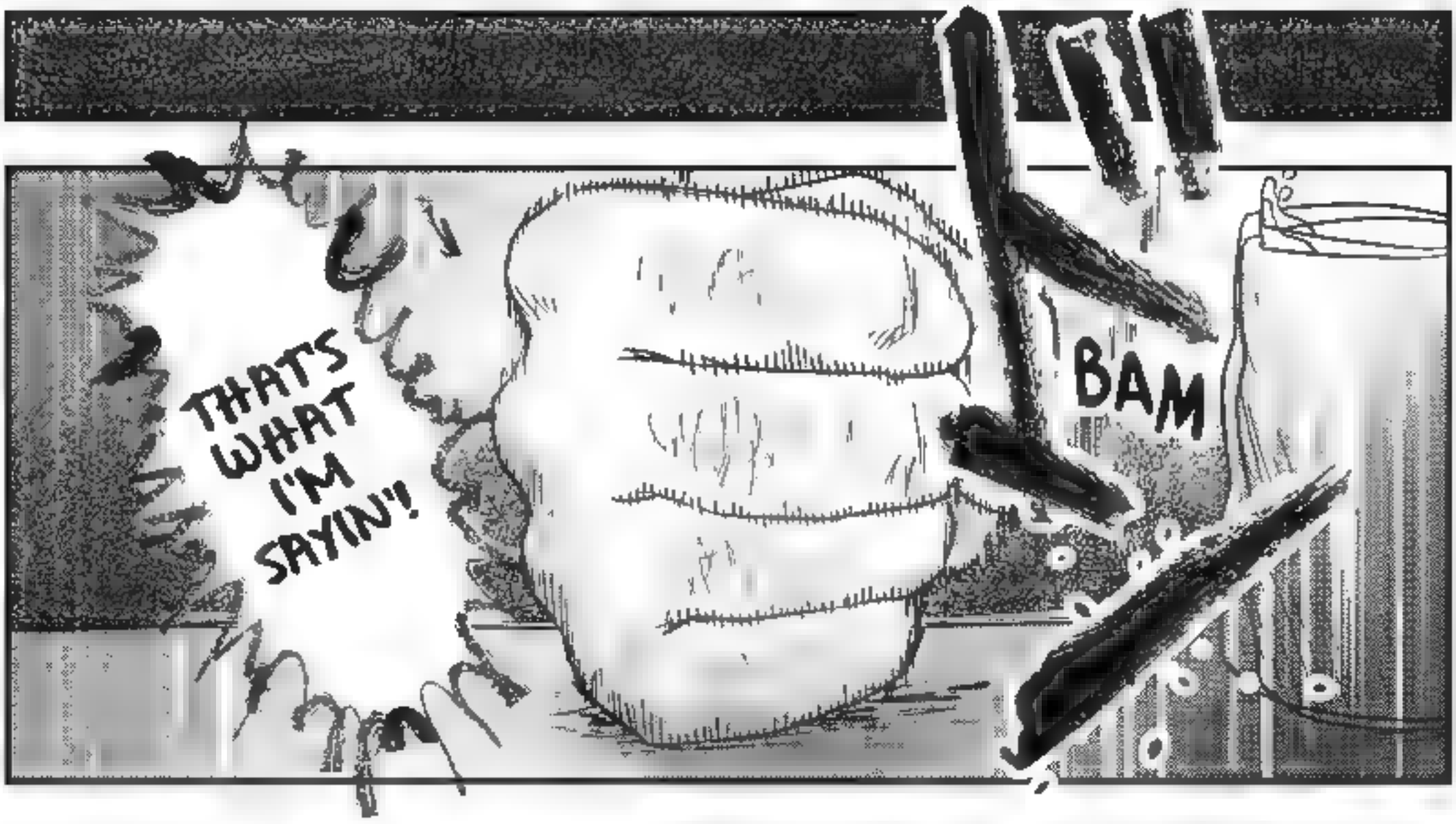
...YOU KNOW...

WELL, I...

...I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO REPLACE HIM OR ANYTHIN'...

...BUT I'LL ALWAYS PROTECT YA.

AND I'LL DO WHATEVER Y' ASK ME TO...


THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYIN'!
BAM

IT'S ALL 'COS NO ONE TOOK CARE OF THINGS AFTER KOUHEI INDOU DIED!!

TAKEDA

YEAH BUT I'M SO

KOUHEI'S SON WENT MISSIN' FOR OVER A WEEK...

...TAKIN' CARE OF IT FELL UNDER THE INDOUS' JURISDICTION, SO NO ONE KNOWS MUCH ABOUT IT.

HE CAME BACK, BUT HE PROB'LY DIDN'T COMPLETE THE *RITUAL*.

TETSU MIKASA

GULP

HEY! HOW CAN YOU BE DRINKIN' AT A TIME LIKE THIS ...!?

YER A REAL JERK, YA KNOW THAT!?

...SO MAYBE THAT TIME'S FINALLY COME!?

KOUHEI USED TO SAY THIS SORTA THING COULDN'T GO ON FOR-EVER...

AND WAS THERE REALLY EVEN ANYTHIN' UP THERE IN THEM MOUNTAINS?

DID THAT THING ACTUALLY EVER EXIST IN THE FIRST PLACE?

AH, C'MON... HA-HA! I'LL BE DRINKIN' HIGHBALLS TILL THE DAY I MEET MY MAKER!

IT'S THE DUTY OF THIS LAND'S PEOPLE TO KEEP IT TRAPPED HERE FOREVER.

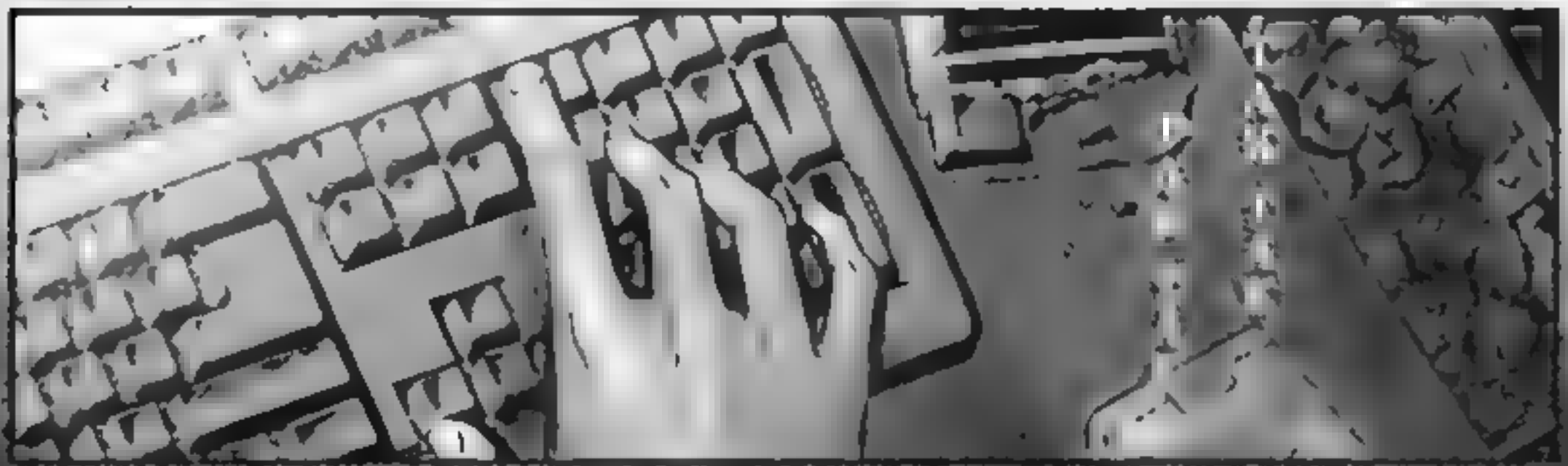
IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHIN', MATSUURA WON'T BE THE ONLY ONE TO WORRY 'BOUT—THE ENTIRE VILLAGE'LL BE IN A HEAP OF TROUBLE...

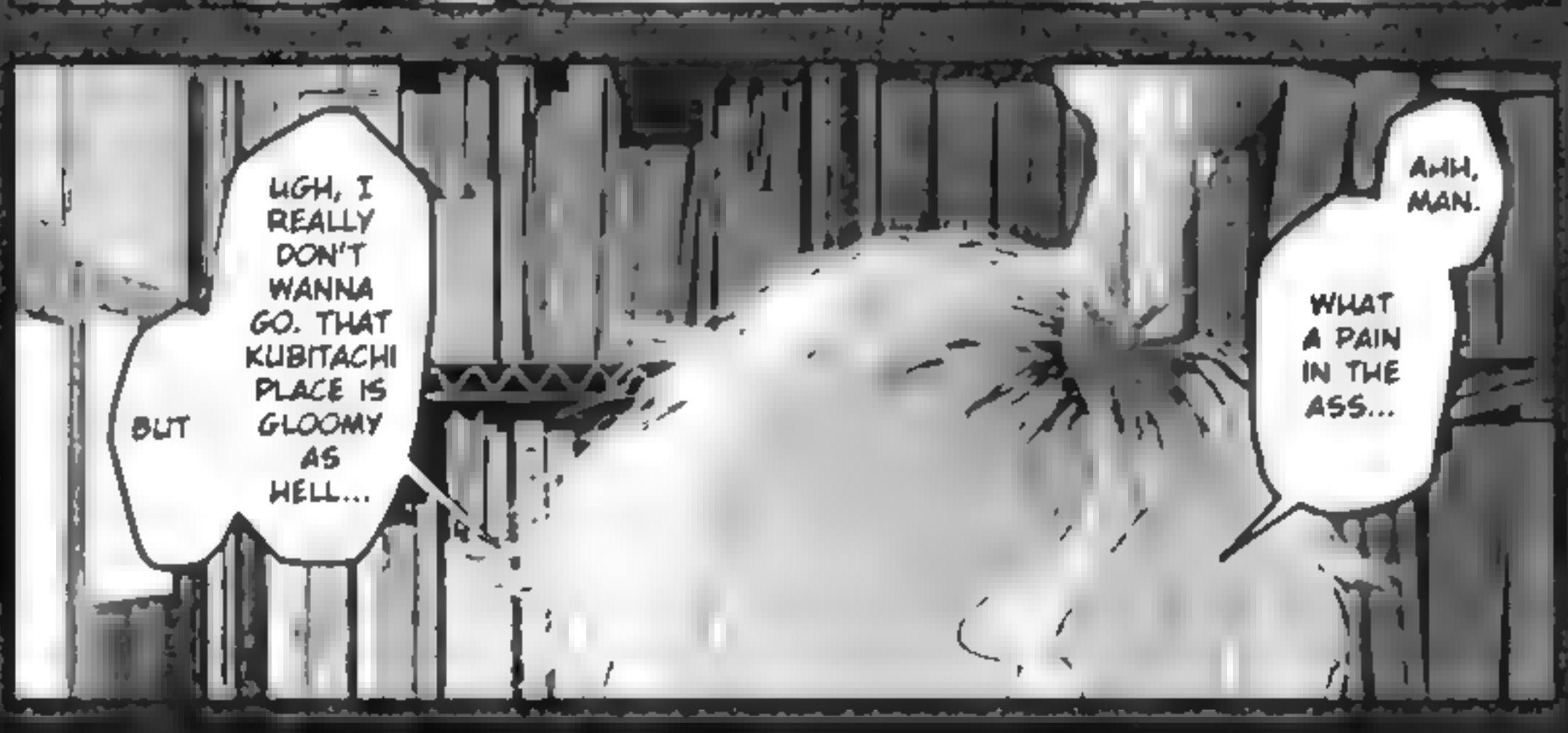
YA DANG FOOL !!

THAT THING... IS KUBITACHI'S "BURDEN," ONE THAT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.

HAJIME, THINK WE OUGHTTA GIVE "TANAKA" A CALL?

I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE...
I ALREADY DID...




UGH, I REALLY DON'T WANNA GO. THAT KUBITACHI PLACE IS GLOOMY AS HELL...
BUT
AHH, MAN.
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS...

DEALING WITH THAT THING

WON'T BE AS EASY AS THOSE VILLAGERS THINK

FZZT

HIKARU'S
BIRTHDAY
IS 3/20.

CHAPTER 10

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

AHH...

AND I CAN'T FEEL NOTHIN'.

I MEAN, MY BODY'S BUSTED UP ALL OVER.

I'M GONNA DIE.

REALLY?

THE HELL WAS THAT? JUS' PLAIN STUPID. WHAT A WAY TO GO OUT...

WHOA! THAT'S A SEXY TREE!

CAN'T BELIEVE I SLIPPED GETTIN' DISTRACTED BY A TREE THAT LOOKED LIKE A WOMAN'S BODY...

SORRY, DADDY... I PROB'LY CAN'T CARRY OUT OUR FAMILY'S DUTIES LIKE I WAS

...IT'D BE GREAT IF NO ONE GOT SAD ABOUT THIS...

...HE'LL BE ALONE...

...IF I DIE...

YOSHIKI...

YOSHIKI.

I DON'T WANNA LEAVE YOU ALONE...

WARP

WHAT WAS THAT...? I CAN'T REALLY SEE WITH ALL THE BLOOD...

...ANYONE WILL DO...

SERIOUSLY, AT THIS POINT...

IS THAT UNUKI-SAMA...

...OR SOMETHING?

SIR!

THIS

...

MY PLACE

...

...HE'S...

SIR

MURMUR

カチャ

KCHAK

FZSNB

IT'S STILL NOT DONE, THOUGH.

HURRY UP, YOSHIKI!!

AH, YEAH... SORRY.

YAHOO!!

I LOOOVE FRIED CHICKEN !!

AH!

CHOMP

CHOMP

OHH MAN, OH MAN, OH MAN!!

HEY! WHADDAYA THINK YOU'RE EATIN'!?

Y' AIN'T EVEN HELPED OUT NONE!

WHAT!? EW, NO!!

AH, SHUT UP! YOU MY MAMA OR SOMETHIN'!?

TUG

THEY'RE ALL THE SAME, YA DUM-DUM!

AND MY PIECES'RE SMALLER THAN EVERYONE ELSE'S, AREN'T THEY!?

THEY'RE BACK AT IT.

...

THIS THING LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THEM TRIANGLE CAPS GHOSTS WEAR, HEH-HEH-HEH.

MAN, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

OUR TEAM FRIED OUR CHICKEN SO DANG MUCH...

...THE PIECES TURNED INTO THE SORT OF THINGS THAT ABSORB ALL THE LIGHT AROUND 'EM.

WHOA.

DARK MATTER.

TASTES LIKE THE BACK END OF A TRUCK!

WANT SOME?

NAH... I'M GOOD...

WHY WERE YA LOOKIN' AT THE RAW CHICKEN LIKE THAT EARLIER?

YOU WERE STARIN' AT IT SOMETHIN' FIERCE...

...WHAT IS IT NOW?

WELL, IT'S JUST...

I...

OH, UH...

...HOW IT FELT THAT ONE TIME...

IT'S KINDA LIKE...

...THE WAY RAW CHICKEN FEELS...

...WITH THAT WEIRD STUFF INSIDE YA... IS ALL...

YOU'VE BEEN THINKIN' 'BOUT THAT STUFF ALL THIS TIME?

HAVIN' THEM NASTY THOUGHTS ALL ON YER LONE-SOME... HEH-HEH...

THE HECK!? WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION, MAN!? IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

D-DANG, MAN...

.....

NAH, IT'S ALL RIGHT, THOUGH.

WA HA HA!

YOU KILL ME!

WANNA TRY FEELIN' IT AGAIN?

.....

...BUT YA KNOW, YOU WERE LIKE THIS BACK WHEN WE WERE ON THAT FOREST PATH TOO.

GETS ME NERVOUS JUS' LOOKIN' AT YA.

YOU REALLY CAN'T HANDLE IT WHEN GUYS LIKE ME GET ALL UP IN YOUR SPACE.

HUH?

NO WAY.

IT FEELS TOO FREAKY ...

THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING I CAN GET USED TO.

RIGHT?

THAT'S WHY IT'S BETTER IF YOU GET USED TO FEELIN' IT!

FINE, THEN.

...ALL RIGHT.

...

NO ENTRY
PERMITTED

PAUSE

AHH, C'MON ALREADY.

...PSYCH MYSELF UP FOR IT.

...WAIT.

I GOTTA JUST...

HAAH...

HURRY UP! CLUBS'RE 'BOUT TO START.

ZHK

UHNNN-
AAAA-
AAH...!!

HA HA!

SEE? YOU'RE GETTIN' USED TO IT.

UNGH... OH, WAIT A SEC.

IT'S NOT AS BAD AS BEFORE.

...

HNH!

THE HELL!?

IT'S ON ME...!?

HNH

HNH

HNH

HNH

HNH

...!

YEAH...

IT'S JUST LIKE LAST TIME...!!

IT'S CRAWLING UP MY ARM...!!

NSH

NSH

NSH

NSH

NSH

NSH

UNGH!

UNNNH!

...BUT WHY DOES IT FEEL SO GOOD?

THIS HAS TO BE ALL KINDS OF WRONG...

BA-DUM

HAAH!

HAFF!

HFF!

FF!

HFF!

NOOO!!!!

JOLT

SWOOP

HUH ...?

I JUST THOUGHT *I'D TRY* TOUCHING YOU FOR A SEC...

GUESS THAT WON'T WORK IF YER NOT USED TO IT...

...WHAT'D YOU DO JUST NOW?

...LOOK, YOU. IS THAT THE TRUTH?

I AIN'T TOO SURE ABOUT THIS, BUT YOU WEREN'T JUST DOIN' THAT 'COS IT FEELS GOOD FOR YOU, RIGHT?

UH...

WH-WHAT ...?

YEAH, I KNOW.

...YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOIN' THINGS PEOPLE DON'T REALLY LIKE...

YOU GOT THAT?

OKAY...

I BELIEVE YOU.

FOR NOW.

BUT...

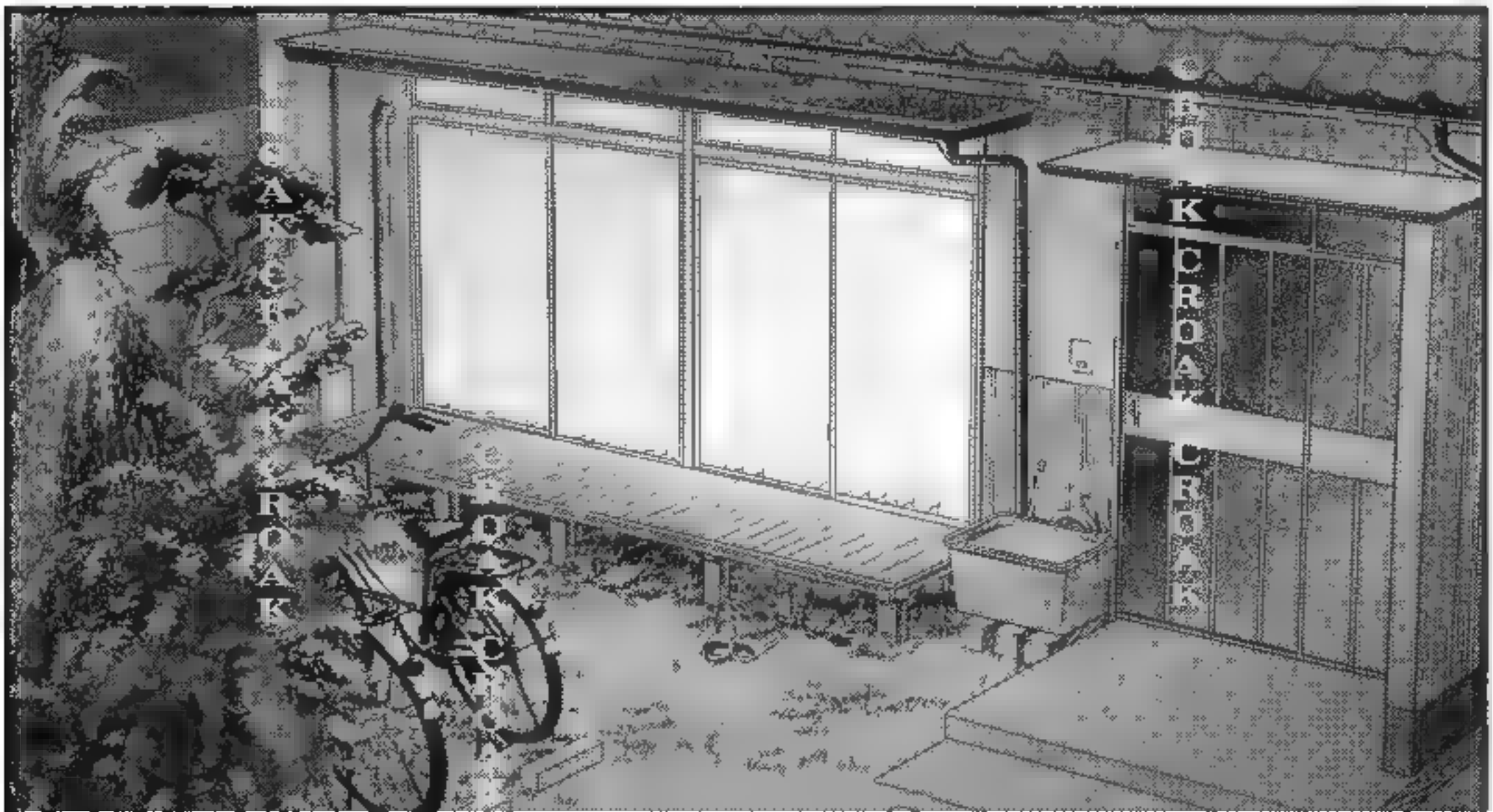
I WOULDN'T LIE TO YA...

BUT I REALLY WASN'T LYING TO YA.

N
O
D

HUH?

..."FOR NOW"...?



IT JUST HAD TO BE FRIED CHICKEN...

...BUT HAS [illegible] GOTTEN DARKER THAN IT WAS YESTERDAY...

I'D NOTICED [illegible] WHEN HE GRABBED MY ARM WASN'T GOING AWAY...

...YER INSIDES WILL GET CLOSER TO WHATEVER THAT THING IS...

IF YOU GET ANY MORE MIXED UP WITH THAT THING, WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN...

I DON'T EVEN WANNA IMAGINE IT...

IT'S LIKE YA BECOME A PART OF IT...

YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BE SEPARATED FROM IT.

...IT MIGHT ATTRACT THINGS FROM THE OTHER SIDE TOWARD YA MORE EASILY...

HEY, MOM!

IS THE BATH READY?

YEAH, IT'S READY.

...

WELL, GUESS WHAT, NII-CHAN!? I'M USING BATH SALTS TODAY!

AWW... WELL, AT LEAST USE THE CYPRESS ONE.

ZSH

ZSH

SQUIK

WHAT'S WITH THIS LONG HAIR? EVERYONE IN OUR FAMILY HAS SHORT HAIR...

...?

FLASH

WHAT IS THIS THING .?

EE...

SHWRP

THMP

THMP

THMP

THUMP

KTNK

MOMMMMMMM!

CHAPTER 10 END

HEY, KAORU ...EMME BORROW ONE OF VER BAN- DANNAS
SURE, BUT M.NE ARE A..L SMALL

ROSE
BATH
SALTS

CHAPTER 11

YAHOO!

LABOR-CAT MASCOT

AWE-SOOOME!! SO COOL!!

PWEE PWEE PWEE

WOWEE! HOW'RE YA SO DANG GOOD AT CLAW MACHINES?

'COS KAORU MADE ME DO IT FOR HER A MILLION TIMES.

テレテレテレテレ DING-A-LING-A-DING

ピロリロリロ

ウィーン WOOOO

テレテレテレテレ DING-A-LING-DING

YOU'RE THE BEST!

THANKS! THANKS SO MUCH!

I REALLY OUTDID MYSELF THERE.

DING-DING-DING

RING-A-LING-DING

WOOO

YOU'D BE PERFECT IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A HARD-CORE GLOOMY GUS!

YOU'RE EVEN GREAT AT SCHOOL.

YOU CAN DO ANYTHIN', YOSHIKI!

THM THM THM

PWEE PWEE PWEE

WOULD YA CALL THAT PRAISE?

ALL THAT PRAISE IS A BIT MUCH.

HUH?

HE GETS A FULL EIGHT HOURS OF SLEEP EVERY NIGHT

FOR YOUR HONESTY, I WILL GIFT YOU THIS CLEAN-CUT YOSHIKI

STILL, THOUGH, I JUST CAN'T IMAGINE A CHEERY VERSION OF YA THAT AIN'T GLOOMY.

IF YA FELL INTO A LAKE, WE MIGHT GET YA BACK AS "NICE GUY" YOSHIKI, EH-HEH-HEH.

WHAT? NAH, I DON' WANNA.

YA GIVIN' IT TO A GIRL OR SOMETHIN'?

WHY'D YA WANT IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF JERKS.

GIMME BACK THAT DOLL.

HUH?

DA HA HA!

HE'S TOO EASY TO FIGURE OUT.

TA HA HA!

TA HA!

...I MEAN, RIGHT?

NO, NO! LIKE I'D EVER ...

THAT'D BE PRETTY DUMB, HUH?

TA HA!

...BECAUSE IT WORKED TOO MUCH AT A FACTORY FOR HAIR-GROWTH FORMULA.

WHAT WAS THE DEAL WITH THIS CAT AGAIN?

SOMETHING ABOUT IT GROWIN' ITS HAIR OUT...

HAIR...

IN THE BATH-ROOM!?

HUH!? A WIG MON-STER !?

THAT'S RIGHT.

MY SISTER SAYS SHE DOESN'T WANNA TAKE A BATH BECAUSE THERE'S A WIG MONSTER IN THE TUB.

GAB

GAB

GAB

AND SHE SAID THE THING WAS AGGRESSIVE AS ALL GET-OUT.

.. NO WAY!

NAH. IT WAS, LIKE, A STUPID AMOUNT OF HAIR. THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD BE LOOSE HAIR.

HUH!? HA-HA...THE HECK IS THAT!? IT'S TOTALLY JUST LOOSE HAIR.

GAB

GAB

HMM...

ANOTHER GHOST, HUH...!?

MY SENPAI ON THE BASEBALL TEAM ALSO SAID HE SPOTTE■ SOMETHIN' NOT TOO LONG AGO.

SEEMS LIKE THIS KINDA THING'S BEEN HAPPENIN' MORE AN' MORE.

YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT YOURSELF, HAVE YA, YOSHIKI?

THEN WE'LL GO AN' CHECK OUT YOUR BATHROOM LATER TODAY.

NO WAY!

UH... NO.

I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHIN'.

A TEABATTLE

BOY, IT'S HOT OUT TODAY!

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME BARLEY TEA?

...WHY'S A GHOST SHOWIN' UP IN MY HOUSE?

AND WHAT IS THAT THING ANYWAY...?

NAH.

LET'S GET TO THE BATHROOM FIRST!

BUT WHY MY PLACE SPECIFICALLY...? THIS SUCKS.

THEY DON'T NORMALLY APPEAR LIKE THAT, THOUGH.

THEY ALWAYS COLLECT IN PLACES WHERE HUMANS LIVE.

SOMETHIN' LIKE A "STAIN"...OR "*IMPURITY*"?

I'M...NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT YOU'D CALL IT.

I'M NOT NICE AT ALL.

I DON'T REALLY GET IT.

SINCE YOU'RE NICE.

...THERE'S SOMETHING APPEALING ABOUT YOU TO THOSE THINGS FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

WELL, THAT'S 'COS...

HMM...

NAH, IT'S THERE.

UGH

...BUT WHY ARE THEY COMIN' TO YOU?

HONESTLY, IT'S FINE IF THESE THINGS ARE DRAWN TO ME...

NOTHIN' THERE?

YEAH, IT'S FINE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT FROM YOU.

I'LL SMASH IT UP AND PUT IT INSIDE ME LIKE LAST TIME.

.IS THAT... ALL RIGHT?

BECAUSE I'M PROTECTING YOU.

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

TICK TOCK

BAM

THUNK

SPLASH

!?

HIKARU!? WHAT HAPPENED !!?

GRAB

THIS MIGHT BE BAD.

Th...

SLAM

HEY!

SPLASH

WH—

WHA ...

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' ..!?

!?

THIS SENSATION...

YANK

DARKSEID

IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S GONNA HAPPEN
BLUE BLUE BLUE BLUE
BLUE

HUH?

MUST BE...

THIS IS A DREAM...

WAIT AM I DREAM-ING?

THE BATH...

HERE, HAVE SOME RADISH.

THAT BOY OF THEIRS SURE IS SLOW.

UH

HUH?

HEY! AIN'TCHA GONNA CUT YER BANGS?

YOU'RE SMART. AREN'T YA? WHAT'RE YA DOIN' FOR COLLEGE?

YO-
SHIKI
!!

Ow!

DON'T RUN AWAY.

YA DUMMY.

CROWLY

THAT'S... THE BIRD I WAS TAKIN' CARE OF WITH HIKARU WAY BACK WHEN...

.....

YER WRONG.

AM NOT!

IT WAS YER TURN TO FEED 'IM TODAY.

CROWLY'S DEAD, AND IT'S ALL YER FAULT, YOSHIKI.

WHAT!?

IT DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN!

STOP MAKIN' EXCUSES!

HE'S A LIVIN' CREATURE...

THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENS...

THROB

AND YOU FORGOT TO FEED HIM THAT ONE TIME TOO, DIDN'T YOU?

BUT TODAY WAS YOUR TURN TO FEED 'IM!

THROB

THROB

WELL, HE DIED DURIN' THAT TIME.

LOOK, I'M SORRY FOR FORGETTIN' TO FEED 'IM.

YOU FORGOT TWICE, AND I FED HIM BOTH THOSE TIMES.

BUT IT WAS JUST ONE TIME.

THROB

HUH? YOU MAKE ME SICK!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT...!!

NO WAY! NEVER!

HUH?

YOU DUMMY !!

TCH! JUST ADMIT IT! YOU KILLED 'IM!

WHY DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE BLAME!?

AND IT'S BEEN ME TAKIN' CARE OF CROWLY ALL THIS TIME!

HUH?

YER THE ONE WHO MAKES ME SICK!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MAKES HIM EAT WEIRD JUNK ALL THE TIME!

BEATS ME!

SO DON'T YA RECKON YER THE ONE WHO KILLED 'IM!?

HUH?

SO HOW DID HE DIE, THEN?

HE WAS DOIN' FINE UP TILL JUST NOW.

...!

YER ALWAYS SUCH A WHINY WIMP!

SPLASH

SPLASH

YOSHIKI ...!?

VOLUME 2 END

HIS MOM CUTS HIS HAIR, AND HE STARTED HATING GETTING HIS BANGS CUT AROUND THE TIME HE WAS IN HIS THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL. HE'S BEEN LETTING THEM GROW OUT SINCE THEN

YOSHIKI'S CLOTHES

HIS MOM BOUGHT THIS AT MION MALL. THREE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE WEAR POLO SHIRTS WITH THIS EXACT PATTERN EVERY DAY

MERCHANDISE FROM YOSHIKI'S FAVORITE MANGA. HE WON IT IN A SWEEPSTAKES DRAWING

HIS MOM BOUGHT THIS AT MION MALL. HE LIKES THE FABRIC AND WEARS IT OFTEN

A T-SHIRT WITH ENGLISH TEXT ON IT THAT HIS MOM BOUGHT AT MION MALL (HE WEARS IT AS PAJAMAS) THE MORE BEAT-UP IT IS, THE BETTER

HIS REGULAR SCHOOL UNIFORM. HE FEELS THE MOST RELAXED IN THIS

IN THE BOONIES LIKE THIS BEING STYLISH IS JUST

BONUS

During the breeding season, the peacock spreads his impressive train of feathers to attract a peahen.

Come spring, peahens will raise anywhere between three and eight chicks...

DON'T LET HARA CATCH YOU WITH YOUR PHONE OUT.

WHAT THE HECK'RE YOU WATCHIN' ANYWAY?

WHOA...THE WONDERFUL MYSTERY OF LIFE.

THIS.

MM, WELL...

...

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL 'BOUT THAT?

BEIN' ABLE TO CREATE NEW LIVIN' THINGS IS JUST DOWNRIGHT INCREDIBLE...

I MEAN, THEY CAN MULTIPLY AN' EVERY-THIN'.

I JUST THINK LIVIN' THINGS ARE AMAZIN'.

OH, THAT REMINDS ME— IT HAS NOTHIN' TO DO WITH THIS, BUT...

...THIS GIRL FROM CLASS D SAID SHE LIKED ME ALL OF A SUDDEN.

LIKE YOU'RE NOT A LIVING THING, HUH...?

...YEAH, GUESS SO.

YEAH.

...
HOW'D YOU ANSWER HER?
HUH...!?
HUH?
UH... ANSWER HER...?

Y...

YA MIGHT NOT REMEMBER THIS, BUT...

THANKS!

HUH?

BUT WHY?

YOU SAID YOU'D BE FINE SINCE YOU COULD AVOID THE RAIN BY DASHING THROUGH THE DROPS * THEN YA RAN OFF

JUST YEAR, IN THIS VERY SPOT

I GOT MYSELF IN A BIND CUS I DON'T HAVE AN UMBRELLA AND YOU LENT ME YER RAINCOAT

AND EVER SINCE THEN...

THANKS...?

OHHH. SO THAT'S WHY YOU LIKE ME!

OH, THERE WAS... SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN MY MEMORY...

...I GUESS...

?

UM....!

SO IS THAT...

...O...

OKAY...?

GEEZ...

THAT MEANS SHE WAS ASKING YOU OUT...

AND THEN SHE JUST SORTA RAN OFF SOMEWHERE.

SURE DOES...

HM...

OH, IS THAT WHAT IT MEANS TO SAY YOU LIKE SOMEONE?

OH! ISN'T IT JUST LIKE THAT BIRD FROM BEFORE?

WELL, I GET THAT, LIKE, AS A CONCEPT, BUT...

I MEAN...

...I JUST FIGURE THERE ARE DIFFERENT WAYS TO LIKE THINGS, RIGHT...?

...
HUH?

...BUT HE'S SOMETHING FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM A PERSON...

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WOULD SAY THAT...

...THAT GIRL AIN'T NO BIRD.

YOU OUGHTTA GIVE HER A PROPER APOLOGY.

.....

I LIKE YOU.

...

...OH, NO.

PLEASE... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT AT ALL.

EVEN I'M KINDA CONFUSED ABOUT THE WHOLE THING.

I'M SORRY 'BOUT BEFORE... I JUST CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU...

THAT'S OKAY...

I DON'T REALLY GET THIS STUFF.

OH!

NOT IN A BAD WAY OR ANY-THING...

HIKARU-KUN, YOU'RE...

...KINDA WEIRD, AREN'T YOU?

.....

YEAH, RECKON I AM.

I LOVE YUUMA!...

...IS WHAT I'D DO...

WHAT IS THIS FEELING?

DO I "LIKE" HIM THE SAME WAY SHE LIKES ME?

...

I HAVE NO IDEA...

HIKARU.

DID YOU GIVE HER A PROPER APOLOGY?

OH!

YUP.

...IS MY LIKE?

JUST WHAT KIND OF "LIKE"...

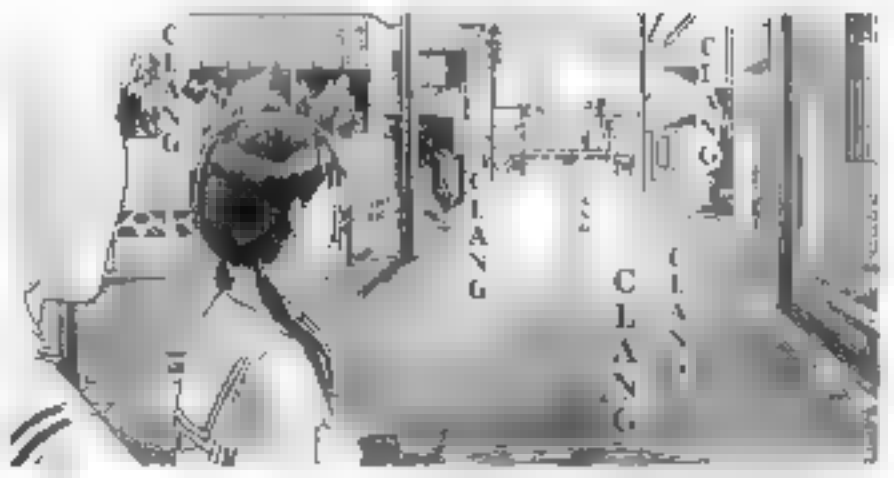
BONUS END

Afterword

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BUYING VOLUME 2! THERE'S A LOT MORE TO COME IN THE SUMMER HIKARU DIED, SO I'D BE VERY HAPPY IF YOU CONTINUED TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS SERIES.
MOKUMOKUREN
ASSISTANTS
MARIA YOMI
SARINA HIRAKAWA
NOMU
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
OW, OW, OW!
KEEP STILL!

Next Volume Preview

As people begin to notice *the* changes around them, *the actions of* two boys *will* take shape *and* swell *into a* tidal wave.

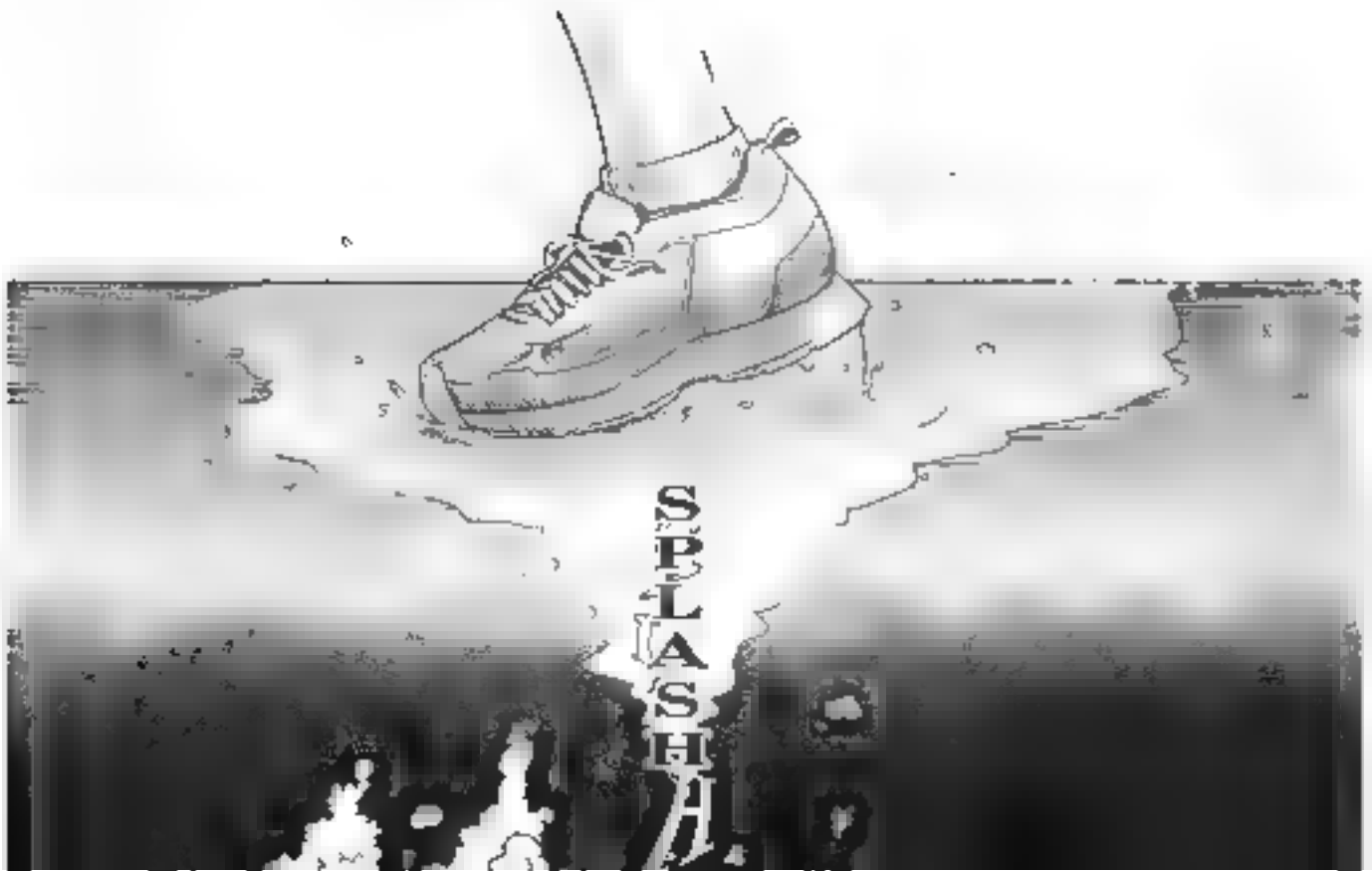


THE SUMMER

HIKARU

DIED

continues in Volume 3...



THE SUMMER

HIKARU

DIED

TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
***-sama*:** Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals regardless of gender.
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
***-niisan, nii-san, aniki,* etc.:** A term of endearment meaning "big brother" that may be more widely used to address any young man who is like a brother, regardless of whether he is related or not.

GENERAL

Hikaru: The Chinese character for Hikaru's name means "light."

Cicadas: The cries of cicadas are pervasive throughout this volume. Cicadas' cries are infamously loud, and the sound is synonymous with summer in Japan.

PAGE 44

Mince-aniki: A nickname created by combining the words mincemeat and *aniki*. The reference to mincemeat likely comes from the fact that the butcher often feeds the cat. *Aniki*, or "older brother," is how delinquents or *yakuza* families are said to refer to the top dog, so animals with gruff-looking faces are sometimes lovingly referred to as *aniki*.

PAGE 56

Takoyaki: A popular festival snack, *takoyaki* are balls of batter and octopus fried in a special pan designed for the purpose.

PAGE 116

Triangle caps: In Japanese art, ghosts are sometimes depicted with triangular pieces of white cloth tied on their heads.

PAGE 133

Shared baths: Kaoru's use of bath salts is relevant because the family will share the bath in turns. In Japan, the bath is exclusively used for soaking after scrubbing the body clean in the space next to the bathtub using either a shower head or a washbasin.

PAGE 143

Falling into a lake: Hikaru is referencing the well-known fable "The Honest Woodcutter." In the story, a woodcutter drops his axe into a lake. The god of the lake emerges with two axes, one gold and one plain, and asks the woodcutter which is his. The man truthfully identifies his plain axe and is rewarded for his honesty.

THE SUMMER HIKARU DIED

MOKUMOKUREN

2

TRANSLATION: AJANI OLOYE

LETTERING: ABIGAIL BLACKMAN

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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